THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 17th DAY OF MAY 1798.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.

EDINBURGH:

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THE PRINCIPAL

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OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 17th day of MAY 1798. and concluded the 29th day of the ſaid Month and Year.

I.

The KING's Commiſſion to DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 17. 1798.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National CHURCH being convened and conſtituted, there was produced to them, by the Honourable GEORGE MELVILLE LESLIE, the KING's Commiſſion, ſealed with the ſeal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and uſed in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and conſtituting the Right Honourable DAVID EARL of

of LEVEN and MELVILLE, his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, Dei gratiâ, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in decimum septimum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi Nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven et Melville, *quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostrum consanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, *supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non presentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus* David Comes de Leven et Melville, *in hac Nostra Commissione prosequenda legitimè fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ* Scotiam *vocatam, subditis Nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, *tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, strictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem à dicto decimo septimo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente*

ſequente ſeſſione dicti generalis conventûs in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel uſque dum à Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei teſtimonium, preſentibus ſigillum Noſtrum per Unionis tractatum cuſtodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejuſdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Noſtram apud St James's, *vigeſimo tertio die menſis Aprilis, anno Domini milleſimo ſeptingenteſimo et nonageſimo octavo Regnique Noſtri anno trigeſimo octavo.*

Per ſignaturam manu S. D. N. Regis ſupraſcriptam.

II.

The KING's moſt gracious Letter to the General Aſſembly, preſented to them by his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. The experience of many years authorizes Us to repoſe the fulleſt confidence in the wiſdom of your counſels and meaſures, and the temper of your minds, and calls upon Us to repeat thoſe aſſurances of Our paternal affection towards you, ſo juſtly due to your Venerable Body.

We are firmly perſuaded, that Our entire Kingdom will derive the greateſt advantages from the deliberations of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland. At the ſame time, We truſt that your proceedings will continue to be diſtinguiſhed by that Gravity and Calmneſs, by that Loyal Attachment to Our Perſon, by that Love for the People committed to your charge, and that ſpirit of Chriſtian Charity one towards another, which cannot fail to confer dignity on yourſelves, and to give authority to your deciſions.

We recommend it to you, moſt earneſtly, to perſevere in your attention to the advancement of Piety, and the Practice of all Chriſtian Duties, both moral and poſitive; to the preſervation of ſound Doctrine, and the checking thoſe looſe notions, both in Faith and Morality, which are the diſgrace of theſe times; and which,

unleſs timely counteracted, muſt operate to the deſtroying of all good Principles in the hearts of men, to the diſſolving all the Bands of Society, and to the provoking of the Diſpleaſure of Almighty GOD.

We have again conſtituted and appointed Our Right Truſty and Right Well-beloved Couſin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE, to be our Commiſſioner, and to repreſent Our Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly. We know his ardent zeal for the great cauſe of Religion, and the ſteady regard which has ever filled his mind for the peace and proſperity of the Church of Scotland, and therefore We do, with the greater ſatisfaction, repoſe in his faithful hands the execution of this important truſt.

We avail Ourſelves of this freſh opportunity of aſſuring you of Our full determination to maintain and preſerve the Church of Scotland in the complete enjoyment of all its juſt rights and privileges; and We do ſolemnly adjure you, to reflect upon and fulfil, conjointly and individually, all thoſe various duties, which the Well-being of the Eſtabliſhment, the Intereſts of Civil Society, and Religion itſelf, ſo forcibly, at this awful moment, demand. And ſo We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 11th day of May 1798, in the thirty-eight year of Our Reign.

By His Majeſty's Command,

PORTLAND.

Addreſſed thus:—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Miniſters and Elders of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.*

III.

The General Aſſembly's Anſwer to the KING's moſt gracious Letter.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

YOUR Majeſty's moſt gracious letter, to this meeting of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the higheſt reſpect.

The

The full confidence which Your Majeſty is pleaſed to repoſe in the wiſdom of our proceedings, and the renewed aſſurances of Your paternal affection, are moſt endearing teſtimonies of Your Royal favour, and fill our minds with the warmeſt gratitude to our beloved Sovereign.

The perſuaſion Your Majeſty has condeſcended to expreſs of the great advantages which will reſult to Your entire kingdom from the deliberations of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, is a moſt powerful incitement to us, in all our proceedings, to conduct ourſelves with that gravity and calmneſs, and that loyal attachment to Your ſacred Perſon,—and to cultivate that love for the people committed to our charge, and that ſpirit of Chriſtian charity one towards another, which will beſt ſecure the dignity of our Order, and give authority to our deciſions.

Feeling, as we do, the utmoſt abhorrence of thoſe looſe notions, both in Faith and Morality, which are the diſgrace of theſe times; and animated by an ardent zeal to counteract their pernicious influence, we liſten, with profound reverence, to Your Royal recommendation; and ſhall ſteadily perſevere in our exertions for the preſervation of ſound doctrine, and for the advancement of genuine piety, and the practice of all Chriſtian duties, both moral and poſitive; in the humble hope, that we may thus prove the means of averting the diſpleaſure of Almighty GOD, and of promoting the happineſs of Your Majeſty's Subjects, by contributing to the maintenance of pure Religion, of good Government, and of ſocial order.

Your Majeſty's knowledge of the ardent zeal of the Earl of Leven and Melville in the great cauſe of Religion, and of his ſteady regard for the peace and proſperity of the Church of Scotland, and the long and pleaſing experience we have had of his fidelity in the diſcharge of the duties of that high and important truſt with which he is now inveſted, render the re-appointment of him to repreſent Your Royal Perſon peculiarly acceptable to this Aſſembly.

Your Royal Donation for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge in the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, we receive as a continued proof of Your Majeſty's paternal concern for the ſpiritual as well as temporal intereſts of Your Subjects; and we ſhall ſtudy, by a wiſe and faithful application of it, to promote the pious and benevolent purpoſe for which it is granted.

We rely, with perfect confidence, on the freſh aſſurance of Your Majeſty's determination, to maintain and preſerve

preſerve the Church of Scotland in the complete enjoyment of all its juſt rights and privileges. Deeply affected with the impreſſive charge of Our Sovereign, who, with paternal affection, ſolemnly adjures us to reflect upon our ſacred obligations, we pledge ourſelves to Your Majeſty, that, through the help of GOD, we will, both conjointly and individually, fulfil all thoſe various duties, which the Well-being of the Eſtabliſhment, and the Intereſts of Civil Society, and of Religion, do, at this awful moment, ſo forcibly demand.

That the GOD and Father of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, may long preſerve Your Sacred Perſon, direct Your Councils, and crown Your undertakings with abundant ſucceſs;—that He may bleſs our Moſt Gracious QUEEN, the PRINCE and PRINCESS of Wales, and all the Royal Family;—that there may never be wanting one of Your Royal Houſe to ſit on the Throne of theſe Kingdoms to lateſt ages;—and that, after a long, uſeful and happy reign, You may exchange an earthly for a heavenly Crown, are and ſhall be the ſincere prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,

Moſt obedient,

And moſt loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, *May* 22. 1798.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, *Moderator.*

IV.

IV.

ADDRESS to His MAJESTY on the preſent Situation of Public Affairs.

Moſt Gracious Sovereign,

WE, Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the Miniſters and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Aſſembly, beg leave to embrace this opportunity of approaching Your Throne, in order to expreſs the ſentiments which we feel on occaſion of the arduous conteſt in which this Nation is engaged with a neighbouring hoſtile power.

During former times of tranquillity and peace, the Miniſters of this Church had always ſtudied to confirm the people under their charge in principles of loyalty to Your Majeſty's Perſon and Government, and to inſpire them with veneration for that happy conſtitution, civil and ſacred, with which we have long been bleſſed. Now, when the day of trial is come, it is with the utmoſt ſatisfaction we behold the happy effects of thoſe ſentiments which we have long endeavoured to inſtill. We behold the great body of the people in this country united in zealous attachment to Your Majeſty's Government, and in reſolute endeavours to defend their ancient rights againſt every invader. We have the happineſs of expreſſing to Your Majeſty our firm perſuaſion, that the ſpirit of the country is now fully rouſed among all ranks of men. They are ſenſible, that all that is ſacred to them as Chriſtians, and dear to them as men, is at ſtake; and that in reſiſting their impious and outragious foes, they are not only defending a Sovereign whom they love and revere, and ſupporting a conſtitution under which they have long been happy, but defending at the ſame time their own families, their perſons and property. We can aſſure Your Majeſty, that, on our part, nothing ſhall be wanting to cheriſh theſe

patriotic diſpoſitions, to ſtimulate the general ardour in the public cauſe, and to promote every meaſure which the wiſdom of Your Councils ſhall deem neceſſary for the ſecurity of the realm.

We beg leave to congratulate Your Majeſty on the brilliant ſucceſſes with which it has pleaſed the Almighty, already, to bleſs Your arms in various quarters. Truſting to that gracious aid of Heaven, which has ſo often ſignally ſupported the Britiſh Throne, and defeated the attempts of unjuſt and violent enemies, we entertain the firmeſt hopes that the inſolent menaces of our preſent foes ſhall be completely baffled, and that an honourable and laſting peace ſhall terminate the conteſt in which Your Majeſty and the Nation are now engaged.

That the GOD of battles may continue to bleſs Your Majeſty's fleets and armies; that He may ſpeedily give a check to the ambition and anarchy of thoſe tyrannical rulers, who have diſturbed the peace of ſo many ſurrounding nations; that He may long preſerve Your Majeſty's precious and important life, and ſtill increaſe the luſtre and proſperity of Your reign over a loyal and grateful people, ſhall ever be the fervent prayer of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful,

Moſt faithful,

And moſt obedient Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBUGRH, May 22. 1798.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, *Moderator.*

V.

V.

Act and Regulations respecting the Erection of Chapels of Eaſe.

Edinburgh, May 23. 1798. *Seſſ.* 6.

THE General Aſſembly, judging it expedient that no Chapel of Eaſe ſhould be erected without the knowledge and approbation of the General Aſſembly, unanimouſly did, and hereby do, ordain, That, in future, if any petition ſhall be laid before any Preſbytery of this Church, for the erection of a Chapel of Eaſe, the ſaid Preſbytery ſhall ſtrictly obſerve the following Regulations.:

"That, in future, when a petition ſhall be laid before any Preſbytery of this Church, for the Erection of a Chapel of Eaſe, it ſhall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting; and at that meeting, unleſs it ſhall appear to the Preſbytery, from the circumſtances in which the petition is offered, that the erection of the ſaid Chapel of Eaſe is unneceſſary and inexpedient, they ſhall cite the Miniſter and Kirk-Seſſion of the Pariſh, within which the Chapel is intended; and ſhall ſummon, by edictal citation, the Heritors of the Pariſh, and, if there is a Burgh in the Pariſh, the Magiſtrates of that Burgh, to attend the next Meeting of Preſbytery, and to appear for their intereſt in the ſubject of the Petition, if they ſhall ſee cauſe:—That ſuch Preſbytery, after having heard the parties, ſhall ſufficiently aſcertain the circumſtances on which the Petition is founded;—the facts ſtated as reaſons for the neceſſity or expediency of the Chapel intended;—the general plan of the Chapel itſelf;—the eſtimate of the expence to be incurred in completing it;—the ſcheme laid down for diſcharging the debts which it may be neceſſary to contract;—the plan on which it is propoſed to diſpoſe of the collections to be made at the Chapel;—the names and deſignations of the perſons in whom the property is

"to

" to be veſted;—the mode propoſed for the election of
" the Miniſter;—the ſtipend to be provided to him;—
" and the ſecurity offered for the regular payment of
" the ſtipend:—That ſuch Preſbytery ſhall thereafter
" report the whole above-mentioned circumſtances of
" the caſe, from their minutes, to the next Meeting of
" the General Aſſembly; and ſhall not pronounce any
" final judgment on the Petition, till they ſhall have re-
" ceived the ſpecial directions of the Aſſembly there-
" on; and that it ſhall be competent for the petition-
" ers, and for all parties having intereſt, to be heard on
" the ſubject at the bar of the Aſſembly."

VI.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1798. *Seſſ.* 8.

Upon the Report of the Committee on the clauſe of the Overture from the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr, reſpecting the courſe of Univerſity Education to be obſerved by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, the General Aſſembly unanimouſly agreed to tranſmit the following Overture on that ſubject, to the ſeveral Preſbyteries of this Church, enjoining them to ſend up their opinions thereon to the next Aſſembly.

Overture reſpecting the Courſe of Univerſity Education to be obſerved by Students, previous to their entering the Divinity Hall.

WHEREAS it has been repreſented, That Students intended for the holy Miniſtry, do ſometimes hurry over their courſe of Philoſophy in two Seſſions of the Univerſity, it is overtured, that it be recommended to Students, previous to their entering a Divinity Hall, to ſtudy Literature and Philoſophy at an Univerſity, during

during a courſe of five complete Seſſions, in the following order, viz.

Seſſion *1ſt*, Humanity or Latin, with the Elements of Greek, in the firſt Humanity and Greek Claſſes.

Seſſion *2d*, Latin and Greek, in the higher Humanity and Greek Claſſes; with the Elements of Mathematics.

Seſſion *3d*, Logic, with Greek and Mathematics in the higher Claſſes.

Seſſion *4th*, } Natural and Moral Philoſophy; but not
Seſſion *5th*, } both in the ſame Seſſion; together with Latin again, or Greek, or Mathematics, in one or more of the higher Claſſes.

But that it ſhall be expreſsly enacted, That no Profeſſor of Divinity ſhall admit any Student into the Divinity Hall, until he produce certificates of his having ſtudied at an Univerſity, during three complete Seſſions, in the following Claſſes, viz. Logic, together with Greek in the higher Greek Claſs; and Natural and Moral Philoſophy; it being, in this caſe, underſtood, that ſuch Students are well grounded in Latin, and the Elements of Greek, previous to their entering the Univerſity.

VII.

COMMISSION of the General Aſſembly to certain Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 26th 1798. *Seſſ.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commiſſion and appoint, the Reverend Dr WILLIAM TAYLOR, Miniſter of the High Church of

Glaſgow, their Moderator: And,—From the *Preſbytery* of *Chanonry*, Mr Robert Smith at Cromarty, Mr David Denoon at Killearnan, *Miniſters;* Mr William Sprott, Solicitor at Law in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Tain*, Mr Alexander Macadam at Nigg, Mr Angus Macintoſh at Tain, *Miniſters;* Charles Roſs, Eſq; of Craigs, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr Harry Robertſon at Kiltearn, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, *Miniſters;* Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleſkin, Mr Thomas Roſs at Kilmanivaig, *Miniſters;* Coll Macdonald, Eſq; of Dalneſs, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Uiſt*, Dr John Macleod at Harris, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, *Miniſters;* Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Eſq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr John Macqueen at Applecroſs, Mr Lauchlan Mackenzie at Lochcarron, *Miniſters;* Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dornoch*, Mr Walter Roſs at Clyne, Mr Alexander Sage at Kildonan, *Miniſters;* Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod of Cadboll, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Tongue*, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr William Mackenzie at Tongue, *Miniſters;* Mr William Maclean, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Caithneſs*, Mr George Mackenzie at Olrick, Mr William Smith at Bower, *Miniſters;* Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr James Watſon at South Ronaldſay, Mr Robert Yule at Kirkwall, *Miniſters;* Alexander Youngſon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkwall*, Malcolm Laing, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Cairſtone*, Mr James Bremner at Walls and Flottay, Mr Andrew Anderſon at Birſay and Harray, *Miniſters;* David Reid, Eſq; Commiſſioner of the Cuſtoms, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *North Iſles*, Mr John Anderſon at Stronſay, Mr Walter Trail at Lady Pariſh in Sanday, *Miniſters;* John Grieve, Eſq; Commiſſioner of Exciſe, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr John Inches at Neſting, Mr John Menzies at Breſſay, *Miniſters;* Profeſſor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr James Macknight, Dr John Kemp, Mr William Simpſon, Edinburgh, Mr William Paul, Weſt Church, Mr Walter Buchanan, Canongate, Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, Weſt Church,

Miniſters:

Miniſters; Andrew Wauchope of Niddry, Eſq; Charles Kerr, Eſq; Dean of Guild of the City, William Cunningham of Bonington, Eſq; *Ruling Elders:*—From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable Thomas Elder, Lord Provoſt of the City, Mr Joſiah Maxton, Convener of the Trades:—From the *Univerſity* of *Edinburgh*, Mr James Finlayſon, Profeſſor of Logic:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr William Finlay at Polmont, Mr Henry Liſton at Eccleſmachen, Mr William Meek at Torphichen, Mr Charles Richie at Kirkliſton, *Miniſters;* David Dundas, Eſq; of Duddingſton, Mr John Dunlop, Collector of the Cuſtoms, Borrowſtounneſs, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Burgh* of *Linlithgow*, Robert Blair, Eſq; of Aventoun, Solicitor-General for Scotland:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, James Hopkirk, Eſq; merchant, Glaſgow:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Lamington, Mr John Fraſer at Libberton, Mr Patrick Molliſon at Walſton, *Miniſters;* Mr David Stoddart, tenant in Eaſton of Dunſire, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Peebles*, Mr John Walker at Traquair, Mr Alexander Forreſter at Linton, *Miniſters;* James Montgomery, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Thomas Cranſtoun, Eſq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Walter Fiſher at Cranſtoun, Mr David Ritchie, Aſſiſtant Miniſter at Pennycuik, *Miniſters;* The Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr Henry Sangſter at Humbie, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr Alexander Brunton at Bolton, *Miniſters;* William Law, Eſq; of Elvingſtone, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, Charles Brown of Coalſton, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr John Harvie at Innerwick, Mr Robert Moore at Oldhamſtocks, *Miniſters;* The Right Honourable Charles, Earl of Hadinton, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunſe*, Mr William Simpſon at Greenlaw, Mr George Cunninghame at Dunſe, *Miniſters;* Matthew Sandilands, Eſq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Churnſide*, Dr Walter Anderſon at Churnſide, Mr James Landells at Coldingham, *Miniſters;* George Buchan of Kello, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kelſo*, Mr James Richardſon at Makerſton, Mr James Richardſon at Morebattle, *Miniſters;* Sir James Pringle of Stitchill, Baronet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Jedburgh*,

burgh, Dr Samuel Charters at Wilton, Mr James Rutherford at Hounam, Mr Thomas Campbell at Ancrum, *Miniſters*; Mr James Hall at Hyndhope, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lauder*, Mr Alexander Duncan at Gordon, Mr James Young at Legerwood, *Miniſters*; Colonel John Pringle of Georgefield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lauder*, The Right Honourable James, Earl of Lauderdale:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Selkirk*, Dr Robert Douglas at Galaſhiels, Mr Robert Ruſſell at Yarrow, *Miniſters*; Mark Pringle, Eſq; of Clifton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr Alexander Cunningham younger of Hyndhope, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Annan*, Mr Nicholas Sloan at Dornock, Mr Thomas Gilleſpie at Cummertrees, *Miniſters*; Joſeph Norris, Eſq; of Newfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr William Little at Weſterkirk, Mr Thomas Martin at Langholm, *Miniſters*; Mr John Peat, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr James Smail at Kirkmichael, Dr Andrew Brown at Lochmaben, Mr Gabriel Scott at Kirkpatrick Juxta, *Miniſters*; William Tait, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnſtone, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr John Robertſon at Kirkonell, Mr Andrew Yorſtoun at Cloſeburn, *Miniſters*; John Corſon Eſq; of Dalwhat, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dumfries*, Dr Bryce Johnſton at Holywood, Mr John Maccubbin at Kirkpatrick Irongray, Mr John Wightman at Kirkmahoe, *Miniſters*; Thomas Crichton younger of Achinſkeoch, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dumfries*, Hugh Corrie, Eſq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kircudbright*, Mr John Johnſton at Croſsmichael, Mr George Maxwell at Buitle, Mr Alexander Robb at Tongland, *Miniſters*; James Gordon younger of Culvenan, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *New-Galloway*, Mr Robert Heron, Preacher of the Goſpel:—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, John Jeffray of Allerbeck, Eſq;:—*Burgh* of *Whithorn*, John Buſhby, Eſq; Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr John Mackenzie at Portpatrick, Dr Anthony Stewart at Newluce, *Miniſters*; Thomas Adair of Genoch, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Thomas Smith, Eſq; one the Principal Clerks to the Bills:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Ayr*, Dr William Macquhae at St Quivox, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Mr William Thomſon at Ochiltree

tree, Dr William Ritchie at Tarbolton, Mr Robert Duncan at Dundonald, *Miniſters*; Thomas Kennedy, Eſq; of Denure, James Ferguſſon, Eſq; of Bank, Advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Ferguſſon, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Irvine*, Mr Henry Graham at Cumbray, Mr John Duncan at Ardroſſan, *Miniſters*; David Boyle, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Paiſley*, Mr John Findlay at Paiſley, Mr John Brown at Kilmalcolm, Mr Thomas Brown at Innerkip, Mr Robert Steel at Greenock, *Miniſters*; Mr William Stow, one of the Magiſtrates of Paiſley, Archibald Campbell Eſq; younger of Clathick, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Renfrew*, John Connell, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Hamilton*, Mr Michael Macculloch at Bothwell, Mr John Bower at Old Monkland, Mr John Thomſon at Cambuſnethan, *Miniſters*; Profeſſor George Jardine, Glaſgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lanark*, Dr James Scott at Carluke, Mr William Menzies at Lanark, *Miniſters*; John Fullarton, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Glaſgow*, Mr Alexander Rankin at Glaſgow, Mr James Lapſlie at Campſie, Mr Stevenſon Macgill at Glaſgow, *Miniſters*; Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Baronet, Mr John Tennent, merchant in Glaſgow, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Glaſgow*, Archibald Newbigging, Eſq; preſent Trades Bailie of Glaſgow:—From the *Univerſity* of *Glaſgow*, Profeſſor William Richardſon, Glaſgow:—From the *Burgh* of *Rutherglen*, James Davidſon, Eſq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dumbarton*, Mr George Sym at New Kilpatrick, Mr Andrew White at Kilmarnock, Mr Duncan Macfarlane at Drumen, *Miniſters*; The Right Honourable the Lord Preſident, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Archibald Maclea at Rothſay, Mr Alexander Macfarlane at Kilfinan, *Miniſters*; John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Rothſay*, William Macleod Bannatyne, Eſq; of Kames:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kintyre*, Dr George Robertſon at Campbelton, Mr Donald Macnicol at Jura, Mr James Macintoſh at Killarow, *Miniſters*; Robert Davidſon, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Campbelton*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Eſq;:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Inverary*, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, Mr Dugald Campbell at Kilmichael Glaſſry, *Miniſters*; David Campbell, Eſq; of Comby, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lorn*, Mr John Macfarlane at Kilbrandon,

Mr Alexander Macintyre at Kilchrenan, *Miniſters*; John Campbell of Lochend, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Mull*, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, Mr Dugald Campbell at Roſs, *Miniſters*; Ranald Macdonald, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr William Macritchie at Clunie, Mr James Patrick Bannerman at Cargill, Mr Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, Mr Hugh Macdougall at Killin, *Miniſters*; John Hagart, Eſq; Advocate, Mr John Macritchie writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Perth*, Mr William Lang at Arngoſk, Mr John Inglis at Tibbermuir, Mr Antony Dow at Kilſpindie, Mr David Moncrieff at Redgorton, *Miniſters*; Mr Alexander Beatſon, writer to the Signet, Bailie James Dickſon, bookſeller, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr James Frame at Alloa, Mr John Duncan at Alva, *Miniſters*; Burnet Bruce, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr James Ramſay at Maderty, Mr James Brugh at Trinity Gaſk, *Miniſters*; Patrick Murray, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunblane*, Dr James Robertſon at Callander, Mr Duncan Stewart at Balquhidder, *Miniſters*; William Campbell, Eſq; writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr Alexander Thomſon at Carnock, Mr Patrick Spence at Orwell, Mr John Fairnie at Dunfermline, *Miniſters*; Sir Charles Preſton of Valleyfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kirkcaldy, Mr James Wemyſs at Bruntiſland, Mr Francis Nicol at Auchtertool, *Miniſters*; Alexander Park, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Bruntiſland*, Mr Alexander Pitcairn, Inſurance Broker in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Cupar*, Dr George Campbell at Cupar, Mr David Wilkie at Cults, Mr James Liſter at Auchtermuchty, Mr Andrew Thomſon at Balmerino, *Miniſters*; George Greenlaw of Hilton, Eſq; Mr Thomas Ireland at Chance Inn, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *St Andrews*, Dr John Adamſon and Dr George Hill at St Andrews, Mr James Macdonald at Kemback, Mr Robert Wilſon at Eaſter Anſtruther, *Miniſters*; Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilly, Dr John Rotheram, Profeſſor of Natural Philoſophy in the Univerſity of St Andrews, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *St Andrews*, Joſeph Maccormick, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Univerſity* of *St Andrews*, Dr Joſeph Maccormick, Principal

Principal of the United College:—From the *Burgh* of *Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Meigle*, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr James Playfair at Bendochy, Mr James Will at Ruthven, *Miniſters*; Sir William Ramſay, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr Thomas Wright at Roſcobie, Mr John Webſter at Inverarity, *Miniſters*; Mr John Moncreiff, Apothecary, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forfar*, Robert Graham, Eſq; of Fintry:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr Alexander Imlach at Murroes, Mr John Anderſon at Dundee, Mr Charles Cunningham at Lundie and Foulis, *Miniſters*; George Paterſon, Eſq; of Caſtlehuntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dundee*, James L'Amy, Eſq; Advocate, younger of Dunkenny:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr George Gleig at Aberbrothock, *Miniſters*; Mr Thomas Milne merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr John Pirie at Lochlee, Mr Andrew Hutton at Edzel, Mr Andrew Fergusſon at Maryton, *Miniſters*; Sir James Stirling Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Brechin*, Adam Gillies, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Fordoun*, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, Mr Robert Croll at Bervie, Mr George Cook at Laurencekirk, *Miniſters*; John Burnett, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberdeen*, Dr David Cruden at Nigg, Mr Skene Ogilvy at Old Machar, Mr George Morriſon at Banchory Devenick, Dr James Fraſer at Dalmaik, *Miniſters*; William Robertſon, Eſq; Advocate, Procurator for the Church, John Gordon, Eſq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kincardine O'Neal*, Mr Robert Farquharſon at Coldſtone, Mr Charles Machardy at Crathie, Mr Joſeph Smith at Birſe, *Miniſters*; William Macdonald, Eſq; of Renetton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Alford*, Mr John Harper at Kildrummy, Mr Benjamin Mercer at Forbes and Kearn, Mr Andrew Marſhall at Tullyneſsle, *Miniſters*; James Gordon younger of Craig, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Ellon*, Mr Pirie at Slains, Mr Cock at Cruden, *Miniſters*; Dr Hugh Macleod, Profeſſor of Church Hiſtory in the Univerſity of Glaſgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Garioch*, Mr George Skene Keith at Keith-hall, Mr George Daun at Inch, Mr William Smith at Bourty, *Miniſters*; William Gordon, Eſq; of Rothny, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Deer*, Mr Hugh Taylor

Taylor at New Deer, Mr James Greig at Pitſligo, Mr William Greig at Longſide, *Miniſters*.; John Taylor, Eſq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Turriff*, Mr John Falconer at Fyvie, Mr Laurence Moyes at Forglen, *Miniſters*; Mr Archibald Milne, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Fordyce*, Mr Abercromby Gordon at Banff, Mr Alexander Milne at Boindie, *Miniſters*; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Banff*, George Cranſtoun, Eſq; of Dewar:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Strathbogie*, Mr James Gordon at Belly, Mr John Findlater at Glaſs, *Miniſters*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberlour*, Mr Francis Grant at Knockando, Mr George Cruickſhank at Rothes, *Miniſters*; The Honourable Arthur Duff of Orton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Abernethy*, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr John Gordon at Alvie, *Miniſters*; Dr Gregory Grant, Phyſician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr. William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr Alexander Brown at Spynie, *Miniſters*; The moſt Noble the Marquis of Huntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Elgin*, William Blair, Eſq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Forres*, Mr John Hoyes at Kinloſs, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, *Miniſters*; George Cumin, Eſq; of Relugas, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forres*, James Grant, Eſq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr Pryſe Campbell at Arderſier, Mr John Paterſon at Auldearn, *Miniſters*; Alexander Grant, Eſq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Nairn*, Mr Alexander Fleming at Kirkliſton:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Inverneſs*, Mr Alexander Fraſer at Kirkhill, Mr William Smith at Petty, *Miniſters*; Simon Fraſer of Faraline, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverneſs*, Alexander Baillie, Eſq; of Dochfour:—And the General Aſſembly added thereto, Dr Hugh Blair, one of the Miniſters of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator: and alſo from the *Burgh* of *Wick*, Mr James Horne, writer to the Signet, whoſe commiſſion had been rejected on account of informality; TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be Miniſters, to meet and convene within the Aſſembly-houſe at Edinburgh, the

firſt

first day after the diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the ſecond Wedneſday of Auguſt, third Wedneſday of November, and the firſt Wedneſday of March next to come, and oftner, when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient, with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chooſe their own Moderator: And likewiſe, the General Aſſembly fully empowers their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, in every matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Aſſembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the inſtructions given, or to be given by this Aſſembly; and to advert to the intereſt of the Church on every occaſion, that the Church, and preſent eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable: Provided always, that this general clauſe be not extended to particular affairs or proceſſes before Synods or Preſbyteries, that are not of univerſal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private proceſſes be determined, except at the four ſtated diets; and what ſhall be determined at one diet of the Commiſſion, with relation to private cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in force till diſapproved of by the General Aſſembly. And the Aſſembly renews the inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly in the year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventeen to their Commiſſion, and appoints the ſame to ſtand in full force as inſtructions to the Commiſſioners before named, and to be obſerved by them in all points, as if the ſame were ſpecially here inſerted; and that they inquire into the publiſhing and ſpreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconſiſtent with our *Confeſſion of Faith*; and that the recommenders of ſuch books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the ſaid Commiſſion, to anſwer for the ſame. And further, the ſaid Commiſſion is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that ſhall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen ſuch affairs for the next General Aſſembly; and to contribute what they can to the ſuppreſſing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and aſſiſtance to Synods

and Preſbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewiſe, to take care that the impreſſions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confeſſion of Faith*, and *Catechiſms*, and ſuch books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worſhip, diſcipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the ſame. And the Commiſſioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correſpondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, for ſuppreſſing Popery and ſuperſtition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in theſe parts, and give aſſiſtance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the ſame; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies One thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and One thouſand ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Aſſembly One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Aſſembly held in the year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe Preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſſion, are to take care, that at leaſt two of them attend each diet of the ſame:

And

And the General Aſſembly appoint their Commiſſion, at their firſt meeting, to diſcuſs as many of the cauſes and queſtions relative to the ſettlement of vacant churches, which are or ſhall be referred to them by the Aſſembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Preſbytery or Synod of this Church ſhall decline to comply with the ſentence of the Commiſſion, or to give the ſame a full execution, in that caſe the Commiſſion is hereby prohibited to execute the ſame, by appointing any ſuch correſpondent meeting, as has been ſome time the practice, but ſhall allow the ſame to lie over to the enſuing Aſſembly, to which ſuch Preſbyteries or Synods ſhall be anſwerable for ſuch their conduct, and are hereby appointed to ſend up with their Commiſſioners their reaſons for the ſame. And that in paſſing their ſentences, and in ordering the execution of the ſame, they ſtrictly obſerve the 12th act of the Aſſembly One thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty ſix.

VIII.

COMMISSION to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, and for managing his Majeſty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, May 26. *Seſſ.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr WILLIAM TAYLOR, Miniſter of the High-Church of Glaſgow, their Moderator, all the Miniſters who are members of the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, Mr David Denoon, Mr Angus Mackintoſh,

Mackintoſh, Mr Charles Calder, Mr Patrick Grant, Dr John Macleod, Mr John Macqueen, Mr Alexander Sage, Mr William Mackenzie, Mr Charles Richie, Mr John Fraſer, Mr Alexander Forreſter, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr Alexander Brunton, Mr John Harvie, Mr George Cunningham, Dr Walter Anderſon, Mr James Richardſon, Dr Samuel Charters, Mr Alexander Duncan, Dr Robert Douglas, Mr Thomas Gilleſpie, Mr Thomas Martin, Dr Andrew Brown, Mr Andrew Yorſton, Dr Bryce Johnſton, Mr John Johnſton, Mr John Mackenzie, Dr William Macquhae, Mr Henry Graham, Mr John Finlay, Mr Michael Macculloch, Dr James Scott, Mr Alexander Rankin, Mr George Sym, Mr Archibald Maclea, Dr George Robertſon, Mr Archibald Campbell, Mr John Macfarlane, Mr Alexander Campbell, Mr William Macritchie, Mr John Inglis, Mr James Frame, Mr Robert Stirling, Dr James Robertſon, Mr Patrick Spence, Mr Thomas Fleming, Dr George Campbell, Dr John Adamſon, Dr George Hill, Dr Joſeph Maccormick, Dr James Playfair, Mr Thomas Wright, Mr John Anderſon, Mr William Milligan, Mr John Pirie, Mr James Walker, Mr George Cook, Mr Joſeph Smith, Mr Andrew Marſhall, Mr William Smith, Mr Hugh Taylor, Mr John Falconer, Mr Alexander Milne, Mr James Gordon, Mr Francis Grant, Mr John Grant, Mr William Gordon, Mr John Hoyes, Mr Pryſe Campbell, Mr Alexander Fraſer, *Miniſters;* Mr William Sprott, Charles Roſs, Eſq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, Mr Coll Macdonald, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr William Maclean, Commiſſioner Reid, Commiſſioner Grieve, Profeſſor Dalzel, Charles Kerr, Eſq; The Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Convener Maxton, Mr Solicitor-General, James Montgomery, Eſq; Thomas Cranſtoun, Eſq; The Right Honourable Lord Advocate, The Right Honourable Earl of Hadinton, Mr Matthew Sandilands, Mr Alexander Cunningham, Mr Joſeph Norris, Mr John Peat, William Tait, Eſq; Mr William Johnſton, Mr Hugh Corrie, Mr Thomas Smith, James Ferguſſon, Eſq; George Ferguſſon, Eſq; David Boyle, Eſq; Archibald Campbell, Eſq; John Connel, Eſq; Profeſſor George Jardine, John Fullarton, Eſq; Mr James Davidſon, The Right Honourable Lord Preſident, John Lamont, Eſq; William Macleod-Bannatyne, Eſq; Robert Davidſon, Eſq; William Campbell of Fairfield, Eſq; David Campbell, Eſq; Ranald Macdonald, Eſq; John Hagart, Eſq; Mr John Macritchie, Mr Alexander Beatſon, Bailie James Dickſon, Burnet Bruce, Eſq; Patrick

trick Murray, Eſq; Mr William Campbell, writer, Mr Alexander Pitcairn, George Greenlaw, Eſq; Lieutenant-Colonel Monypenny, Dr John Rotheram, Joſeph Maccormick, Eſq; Mr Thomas Weir, Sir William Ramſay, Mr John Moncrieff, Robert Graham, Eſq; James L'Amy Eſq; Mr Thomas Miln, Sir James Stirling, Adam Gillies, Eſq; John Burnett, Eſq; The Procurator, Mr William Macdonald, James Gordon, younger of Craig, Eſq; Dr Hugh Macleod, Mr Archibald Miln, Mr George Andrew, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr William Blair, Mr George Cumin, Mr James Grant, Mr Alexander Grant, Simon Fraſer, Eſq; Alexander Baillie, Eſq; *Ruling Elders;* TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Aſſembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, ſuppreſſing Popery and profaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty for theſe ends, according to, and in terms of his Majeſty's grant to this Aſſembly. In proſecution of which purpoſes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechiſts, to go to ſuch places as they ſhall find, upon due information, to be the moſt proper, according to his Majeſty's deſign, expreſſed in His warrant; and, in ſo doing, that they have particular regard to ſuch pariſhes in South Uiſt, Small Iſles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other pariſhes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee ſhall find, by reaſon of the vaſt extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumſtances, to be in the greateſt diſtreſs: And they ſhall take care, that the perſons they employ be certified and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for theſe reſpective offices, of good abilities for the ſame, of a pious life and converſation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majeſty, and of competent ſkill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popiſh controverſies: Such Preachers and Catechiſts being hereby appointed to be ſubject to, and under the inſpection of the Preſbyteries of the bounds to which they are ſent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly obſerved by them. And the Preachers are alſo appointed to catechiſe, and both they and the Catechiſts to inſtruct the people from houſe to houſe, and to viſit the ſick; and in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Chriſtian Proteſtant religion, and the obligations they are

under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them ſuch inſtructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they ſhall judge meet; which inſtructions the Preachers and Catechiſts are hereby ordered to obey. The General Aſſembly do further appoint the ſaid Committee to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Aſſembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Aſſemblies; and to take care that Preſbyteries, and others concerned, obſerve the ſame, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Aſſembly ordains the ſeveral Preſbyteries to inſert, in their regiſters, the Committee's appointments of the deſignations, ſalaries, and ſtations, of the ſeveral Miſſionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they ſhall write about the ſaid Miſſionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning Miſſionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters ſhall be ſigned, at the appointment of the Preſbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Aſſembly does diſcharge any payment to be made of the ſalaries of the Miſſionaries, except upon receipts from the Miſſionaries themſelves, and upon certificates from the Preſbyteries, bearing, that they have ſerved for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechiſt, who receives a ſalary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the pariſhioners, or gentlemen of the diſtrict, ſhall pay a certain ſum in aid of ſuch ſalary, ſhall inſert, in the body of his receipt to the Caſhier, a declaration, that he has received the particular ſum ſpecified; and that the atteſtation of the Preſbytery ſhall, in like manner, bear, that the Catechiſt has received the ſtipulated ſum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being underſtood by this reſolution, that the ſeveral ſtations, with regard to which ſuch conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no ſuch declaration of the Catechiſt, or atteſtation of the Preſbytery, as is now propoſed, is received by the Caſhier, ſhall be afterwards ſuppreſſed by the Committee, though the Catechiſt ſhall, notwithſtanding, receive the ſalary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty: That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the miniſtry, of the miſſion committed to him, be written on the back of

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the Preſbytery's certificate, and ſigned by him, as the ground on which the Preſbytery have granted him ſaid certificate. The General Aſſembly do alſo empower the ſaid Committee to apply, for the purpoſes above mentioned, what may remain of the laſt year's Royal Bounty not diſpoſed of, by reaſon of any of the Miſſionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a regiſter of their proceedings, and likewiſe diſtinct books of accounts, how the foreſaid money is beſtowed, which ſhall be patent to any concerned, who pleaſe to inſpect the ſame. Of the perſons above named, as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be Miniſters. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the ſcheme or eſtabliſhment of Miſſionaries for the enſuing year is to be approved and determined, not leſs than fourteen ſhall be the quorum, whereof nine ſhall be Miniſters: and the ſaid Committee are appointed to have their firſt general meeting at Edinburgh, the firſt lawful day after the adjournment of the firſt of the ſtated diets of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly; their ſecond meeting (which is for fixing the annual ſcheme) upon the ſecond Thurſday of July, with power to thoſe Members who ſhall then be preſent, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the firſt lawful days after the ſtated meetings of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, in November and March, within the Aſſembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day ſhall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting ſhall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the ſaid hour; with power to the ſaid Committee to adjourn themſelves to ſuch times and places as they ſhall find moſt needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correſpondence with the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the Synods and Preſbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and empowered, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate, for aſſiſtance and ſupport in carrying on the deſign of the Commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do appoint Mr William Robertſon, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the ſame, as he ſhall be directed

directed and ordered by the foreſaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the ſaid Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of His Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no perſon once employed and inſert in the ſcheme, ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be Miniſters; and in caſe any complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the ſcheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall lie on the table till another meeting; and, in the mean time, the perſon complained of, and the Preſbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch complaint, and thoſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid Committee a juſt account of the matter againſt the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly ſcheme of Miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Preſbyteries concerned, ſuch Preſbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid Committee their anſwer to theſe letters, at fartheſt, with their Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the Committee, at their firſt meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to complete the next year's ſcheme themſelves; and if they cannot complete it, they ſhall name a ſub-committee of their number for that purpoſe, who are to lay their draught thereof before a ſubſequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as ſoon after the riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible: And empowered the Committee, at their firſt meeting, to reject any petition for a new ſtation, in caſe they ſhall find ſufficient objections againſt it; and that the ſaid Committee, in making up the ſcheme of Miſſionaries, &c. do not exceed the ſum in the grant.

IX.

IX.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1798. *Seſſ. ult.*

UPON the Report of the Committee for claſſing returns to Overtures,—The Aſſembly unanimouſly agreed to retranſmit the Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers; alſo the Overture reſpecting the Attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall; and particularly, enjoin ſuch Preſbyteries as have ſent no returns, to ſend up their Opinions to next Aſſembly; and that Preſbyteries ſhall appoint a day for the conſideration of theſe two Overtures at their firſt Meeting after receiving the printed Acts of Aſſembly; and that they ſhall alſo take into their conſideration on the ſame day, the Overture reſpecting the Courſe of Univerſity Education, to be obſerved by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, tranſmitted by this Aſſembly.

New Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Seſſ.* 8.

THE General Aſſembly having taken under their ſerious conſideration, the great danger to which the intereſts of Religion and of this Church may be expoſed, by licenſing any to preach the Goſpel who are not duly qualified for that important truſt, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations ſhall be ſtrictly obſerved:

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student ſhall be entered upon the Roll of any Profeſſor of Divinity, unleſs he ſhall produce to the ſaid Profeſſor a certificate from the Miniſter of the pariſh in which he has his uſual reſidence; or in hi abſence, or during a vacancy in ſaid pariſh, from ſomesneighbouring Miniſter, bearing, that

his character is ſuitable to his views; together with a diploma of Maſter of Arts, or certificates from the ſeveral Profeſſors of Philoſophy, under whom he hath ſtudied, from which it may be clearly aſcertained that, in ſome Univerſity or Univerſities, he hath gone through a full courſe of Philoſophy, in ſome winter-ſeſſions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Profeſſors of Divinity, in the manner preſcribed by this act, ſhall continue to proſecute the ſtudy of Divinity for the term of ſix Seſſions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Seſſions, his Courſe ſhall be conſidered as completed in four Seſſions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Seſſions, his Courſe ſhall be conſidered as completed in five Seſſions. And the Aſſembly do further ordain, That in each of theſe caſes, Students ſhall be inrolled by the Profeſſors during the ſeveral Seſſions of their reſpective Courſes, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegeſis in Latin, on ſome controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in Engliſh, an Exerciſe and Addition, a Lecture on ſome large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with ſuch other exerciſes as the Profeſſors ſhall think proper to preſcribe. And the Aſſembly further enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Profeſſor for his certificates, that he may be propoſed for trials, and that the preliminary ſteps may be taken by the Preſbytery during the currency of the laſt Seſſion of his Courſe, as above deſcribed; with this limitation, that if the ſaid laſt Seſſion is to be claimed as a Seſſion of regular attendance, he ſhall, toward the concluſion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the ſame to the Preſbytery or Synod.

III. Profeſſors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumſtances may permit, to the conduct of ſuch Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to inſiſt that every Student ſhall deliver his firſt Diſcourſe ſome time during his ſecond Seſſion, at the lateſt, and the remainder of his Diſcourſes

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at ſuch periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the laſt Seſſion of his Courſe.

IV. When a Student is propoſed to any Preſbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Preſbytery ſhall be alone, and the motion for that purpoſe ſhall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Preſbytery ſhall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been propoſed, to lay before the ſaid meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are ſpecified in the third paragraph of the fifth ſection of this act; to deſire him to attend the ſame; and to inform him, that, previouſly to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumſtances may permit, to wait on ſuch Miniſters of the Preſbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of converſing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for conſidering the motion is arrived, the Preſbytery ſhall ſtrictly obſerve the following regulations.

1*ſt*, The Preſbytery ſhall be alone, while they are employed in diſcuſſing the ſeveral preliminaries reſpecting Students who are propoſed for trials.

2*d*, They ſhall require ſatisfying evidence, that every Student who is propoſed for that purpoſe has completed the twenty-firſt year of his age.

3*d*, No Student ſhall be admitted to trials, unleſs he produces to the Preſbytery a certificate or certificates from the Profeſſor or Profeſſors of Divinity, under whoſe tuition he hath ſtudied, bearing, that he hath proſecuted his ſtudies, and delivered his Diſcourſes, in the manner preſcribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as conſiſts with the knowledge of the ſaid Profeſſor, or Profeſſors, has been in every reſpect ſuitable to his views in life. And the General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby enact, That the Preſbytery ſhall record at full length the ſaid certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged ſuch certificate or certificates, ſhall be entitled to obtain extracts of the ſame, if demanded.

4*th*, No Preſbytery ſhall receive any Student upon trials, unleſs they are ſatisfied that he is of good report; ſound in his principles; pious, ſober, grave, and prudent,

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in his behaviour; of a peaceable diſpoſition; and well affected to the happy eſtabliſhment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Preſbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of ſuch peculiar importance, they ſhall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unleſs his reſidence, during the year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he ſhall produce ſufficient teſtimonials from the Preſbytery, in whoſe bounds his reſidence has chiefly been during that term, bearing, that his character is ſuch as is deſcribed in the immediately preceding ſentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in theſe reſpects, to the Preſbytery before whom the propoſal is made, as a proper perſon to be entered upon trials.

5th, The Preſbytery ſhall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unleſs they are ſatisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in thoſe ſeveral branches of knowledge which are neceſſary to enable him to be an uſeful Preacher of the Goſpel. And the General Aſſembly ordain, that the Preſbytery, in order to procure full information in this reſpect, ſhall examine the Student ſtrictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philoſophy and Theology.

6th, If after theſe preliminary ſteps have been taken, the Preſbytery ſhall be of opinion that the Student is duly qualified in theſe ſeveral particulars, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the ſeveral Preſbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at leaſt before the meeting of the ſame, informing them of the Preſbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of ſuch Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have theſe circular letters written half a-year ſooner than would be otherwiſe competent.

VI. The General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby enact and declare, That, at the requeſt of the Student, it ſhall be competent to any Preſbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Preſbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary ſteps have been taken

taken according to the directions of this act; and that ſuch parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

VII. If a Student have ſtudied, either in whole or in part, in Proteſtant Univerſities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he ſhall, when he is propoſed to any Preſbytery for trials, be required to produce ſatisfying teſtimonials from the Profeſſors of Divinity in ſaid Univerſities; and the time which theſe Profeſſors ſhall certify to have been employed by him in ſtudying Divinity under their tuition, ſhall be computed in the ſame manner as if he had proſecuted his ſtudies in any of the Univerſities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in ſuch circumſtances, ſhall be admitted even to thoſe private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, ſooner than ſix kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Aſſembly ordain, That, if a Preſbytery propoſe to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof ſhall be made at ſome diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which ſhall not be the laſt diet thereof: And the Preſbytery clerk is hereby required to tranſmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate or certificates laid before the Preſbytery in favour of the Student, in order that the ſame may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewiſe hereby ordained, That at ſome ſubſequent diet of the Synod, particular inquiry ſhall be made, whether any of the Members of the Court has any objection to offer againſt the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then, taking into conſideration the extract produced, and the whole of the caſe, ſhall judge of the expediency of allowing the Preſbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or, if in any caſe the Preſbytery clerk ſhall fail to tranſmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himſelf, or by any Member of the Court, the extract of the ſame, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod ſhall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Preſbytery ſhall proceed therein

with all convenient ſpeed; and the Aſſembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1*ſt*, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church Hiſtory; 2*d*, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3*d*, An Exegeſis in Latin on ſome controverted Head in Divinity; 4*th*, A Homily in Engliſh; 5*th*, An Exerciſe and Addition; 6*th*, A Lecture on ſome large portion of Scripture; 7*th*, A popular Sermon; it being underſtood, that if the Preſbytery ſee cauſe, they may examine the Student upon the ſubject of theſe ſeveral Diſcourſes.

X. The Student having gone through the ſeveral trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding ſection of this act, the Preſbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order.

1*ſt*, They ſhall, deliberately and ſeriouſly, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they ſhall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Goſpel, they ſhall by no means grant him a Licenſe in his preſent circumſtances.

2*d*, If, upon this review of the trials, the Preſbytery are fully ſatisfied therewith, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes.

3*d*, The Preſbytery ſhall then propoſe to the Student the queſtions that are appointed to be put to all who paſs Trials by act 10th, Aſſembly 1711, and require him to ſubſcribe the *Formula* which is preſcribed by the ſaid act. And the General Aſſembly ſtrictly prohibit all Preſbyteries from licenſing any Student to preach the Goſpel, who ſhall not give explicit and ſatisfying anſwers to theſe queſtions, and ſubſcribe the ſaid *Formula*.

4*th*, The Preſbytery ſhall order the act of Aſſembly 1759, againſt Simoniacal practices, to be read to the Student in their preſence.

Laſtly, The Preſbytery ſhall appoint their Moderator to licenſe the Student to preach the Goſpel, and order their Clerk to furniſh him with an extract of his licenſe.

XI. For the better obſervance of this act, the General Aſſembly ordain, 1*ſt*, That it ſhall be printed among their other printed acts; 2*d*, That it ſhall be printed by itſelf, in ſome convenient form; 3*d*, That a copy of this ſeparate edition ſhall be tranſmitted to each Profeſſor

feſſor of Divinity in the Univerſities of Scotland; and that the ſaid Profeſſors ſhall read the ſame in their reſpective Halls, once at leaſt during every Seſſion, and at ſuch times as they have reaſon to expect the attendance of the greateſt number of Students for that Seſſion; and, *laſtly*, That a copy of the ſame edition ſhall likewiſe be tranſmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Preſbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the ſaid Clerks ſhall keep the ſame along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their reſpective Courts, for the uſe of the Members.

X.

Overture reſpecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1797. *Seſſ. ult.*

THE Committee on the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, reſpecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Halls, having maturely deliberated on the ſaid Overture, Report to the Venerable Aſſembly, That, in their opinion, it ought to be expreſſed in the following terms, *viz.* "It is Overtured, that Students "in Divinity, who propoſe to proſecute their ſtudies "for ſix Seſſions, ſhould be required to give as much "partial attendance, during the currency of thoſe Seſ-"ſions, in the Divinity Halls which they reſpectively "attend, as ſhall, in the whole, amount to ſix months."

The General Aſſembly approved of the above report, and ordered the ſame to be tranſmitted, as an Overture, for the conſideration of Preſbyteries.

XI.

XI.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, 28th May 1798. *Sess. ult.*

THE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 23d day of May 1799.

Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS, adopted by the GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1798, for a New GAELIC CHAPEL in the City of Glaſgow.

[*See Abridgment, May* 24. *Seſſ.* 7.]

I. THAT the property of the houſe ſhall, for behoof of the Congregation, be veſted in Donald Munro, merchant, John Macintoſh, manufacturer, and the other petitioners, Truſtees and Managers of ſaid Chapel, and their ſucceſſors in office.

II. That the houſe ſhall be uſed only as a Chapel of Eaſe, and that it ſhall not be competent to elect any Miniſter or Preacher to officiate therein, but a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, or a perſon who is an ordained Miniſter, according to the rules of this Church; and who, before his ordination or admiſſion, ſhall produce a certificate of his having taken the oaths to Government, according to law; and that the Miniſter of the Chapel of Eaſe ſhall be under the juriſdiction of the Preſbytery within whoſe bounds the Chapel lies, ſubject to cenſure or depoſition by the Preſbytery, and not removable, but according to the rules of the Church relating to Miniſters on the eſtabliſhment; and that the Congregation which meets in ſaid Chapel ſhall remain ſubject to the juriſdiction of the Church of Scotland, and her different judicatories.

III. That the funds ariſing from the ſeat-rents ſhall be under the management of the ſaid Donald Munro, John Macintoſh, and the other Truſtees and Managers of the ſaid Chapel, and their ſucceſſors in office, and ſhall be applied, in the firſt place, to the payment of the Miniſter's ſtipend, precentor, and church-officer; and that, if there is any overplus, it ſhall be converted into a ſinking fund, out of which, as ſoon as the preſent debt of the Chapel ſhall be paid, the ſtipend of the Miniſter may, from time to time, be augmented.

IV. That the conduct of the Managers, in the adminiſtration of the funds of the Chapel, ſhall be under the inſpection and controul of the Preſbytery of Glaſgow; and if the Preſbytery

ſhall ſee cauſe to ſummon them, the Managers ſhall attend the Preſbytery upon a citation of ten free days.

V. That the preſent Managers ſhall ſupply any vacancy that may happen in their number during the ſpace of five years. That at the end of every five years there ſhall be a new election of Managers, by the ſame perſons, and in the ſame manner, as ſhall hereafter be directed in the caſe of the election of a Miniſter.

VI. That the Managers ſhall be liable and give ſecurity for the Miniſter's ſtipend, which ſhall be payable half yearly or quarterly, as may be moſt convenient for the Managers.

VII. That the Miniſter's ſtipend ſhall not be under Seventy pounds Sterling yearly.

VIII. That Collections be made regularly at the Chapel-doors, or in the Chapel, and that the ſum ariſing therefrom ſhall be *bona fide* paid into the hands of the Treaſurer of the General Seſſions of Glaſgow, and applied by them for the ſupport of the poor of the ſaid city.

IX. That the Miniſter firſt choſen is to be elected by a majority of the Managers, and all future elections ſhall be made only by thoſe who poſſeſs ſeats in the Chapel; and to prevent all confuſion and faction, thoſe of each pew ſhall name one of their number, on the day preceding the election, who ſhall vote for the Miniſter; and the name of the perſon ſo nominated, with the number of the pew, ſhall be immediately given in to the Managers: Provided always, that where a whole ſeat is ſet to one ſitter for himſelf, or his family, or others, he alone ſhall have the vote for ſuch pew: That previous to any election, the Managers ſhall cauſe intimation to be made to the Congregation, in the Chapel, of the time fixed for the election, at leaſt ten days previous to the time ſo fixed, that, in the mean time, the vote for each pew, where there are more ſitters than one, ſhall be veſted in one perſon: That the Preſes of the Managers for the time being ſhall preſide at ſuch election, and the Candidate having the majority of votes ſhall be preferred, and certified by the ſaid Preſes; in conſequence of which, the Reverend Preſbytery ſhall be requeſted to proceed to his trials and ordination, or admiſſion, according to the rules of the Church: That in any future vacancy, if no day of election ſhall be fixed by the Managers within the ſpace of ſix months, then it ſhall be in the power of the Preſbytery to fix a day of election, by giving due previous intimation to the Congregation of the ſaid Chapel.

X. That previous to the election, a liſt of Candidates, not exceeding five in number, ſhall be laid before the Preſbytery of Glaſgow.

XI.

XI. That when a vacancy happens in the Chapel of Eaſe, it ſhall be reported to the Preſbytery by the Miniſter of the Pariſh: That during the vacancy, the Managers ſhall apply to the Preſbytery of Glaſgow, and ſhall have power, with conſent of the Preſbytery, to employ any Miniſter or Preacher of the Eſtabliſhed Church to ſupply the Chapel.

XII. That no Candidate who is a Probationer ſhall preach in ſaid Chapel, before having laid his Licenſe and other Certificates before the Preſbytery of Glaſgow, and obtained their approbation; and no ordained Miniſter, before he has produced to the Preſbytery a certificate of his Ordination from the Preſbytery to which he belongs.

XIII. That the election of a new Miniſter, when reported to the Preſbytery, ſhall be accompanied with a letter of acceptance from the perſon elected, with a renewal of the ſecurity for payment of the ſtipend.

XIV. That after the Candidate preferred is admitted and ordained a Miniſter, it ſhall be lawful for him to perform all miniſterial ſervices for the members of his own Congregation; particularly to perform every part of Public Worſhip in his own Pulpit, to which he ſhall have an excluſive right under the authority of the Reverend Preſbytery; to marry after legal proclamation of banns; and to baptize after legal regiſtration.

XV. That upon a certificate of the moral character of the perſons applying to be admitted to the Sacraments from members of the parochial ſeſſions to which they belong, the Miniſter may diſpenſe the Sacraments of Baptiſm, and the Lord's Supper, to the people who ſhall attend his miniſtry in the Chapel, according to the word of God, and the ſtandards and practice of this National Church.

XVI. That as often as the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ſhall be diſpenſed in ſaid Chapel, a ſum not exceeding One hundred pounds Scots ſhall be allowed, from the collections made on theſe occaſions, for communion elements, &c.

XVII. That the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ſhall be adminiſtered in the Chapel on the ſame day in which that ordinance is diſpenſed in the pariſh Churches of Glaſgow; and that, during a vacancy, the Miniſter to preſide on that occaſion ſhall be appointed with the conſent of the Miniſter of the pariſh in whoſe bounds the Chapel lies.

XVIII. That as this Chapel is intended for the accommodation of thoſe who ſpeak Gaelic only, or chiefly, ſeats ſhall be ſet to perſons of this deſcription only; that for the ſame reaſon, the ſervice ſhall be performed in Gaelic in the forenoon of every Lord's Day; and that on occaſion of diſpenſing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the ſermons ſhall all be in Gaelic.

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ABRIDG-

ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the Year 1798, which are not printed at full length.

Thurſday, May 17. 1798. *Seſſ.* 1.

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr JOHN ADAMSON, firſt Miniſter of St Andrews, Moderator of the laſt General Aſſembly, the Miniſters and Ruling Elders convened in the Aſſembly-houſe in the uſual manner: And after Prayer by the ſaid Dr John Adamſon, the Reverend Dr WILLIAM TAYLOR, Miniſter of the High Church of Glaſgow, being unanimouſly choſen Moderator, he, at the Aſſembly's deſire, took the chair.

The General Aſſembly being thus conſtituted, there was given in to them by the Honourable George Melville Leſlie, a meſſage in writing from the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE, his Majeſty's High Commiſſioner to this General Aſſembly, which was openly read with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Aſſembly.

The KING's Commiſſion to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE, to repreſent his Majeſty's Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, was likewiſe given in by the Honourable George Melville Leſlie, read, with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded. See Printed Acts, No. I.

The KING's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly was alſo given in by the Honourable George Melville Leſlie, read in the moſt reſpectful manner, and ordered to be recorded. No. II.

His MAJESTY's Royal Warrant for L. 1000 Sterling was alſo delivered into the Aſſembly, by the Honourable George Melville Leſlie, and ordered to be recorded, and thereafter delivered to the Procurator.

A Committee named to wait upon the Lord High Commiſſioner, in order to expreſs to his Grace, in the name of the Aſſembly, the ſenſe which the General Aſſembly entertains of His Majeſty's favourable regard to this Church, in the repeated aſſurances given by him of his Royal Protection, and in particular for his gracious countenance given to this Aſſembly, by appointing a perſon ſo acceptable to them to repreſent his

Royal Perſon; and to offer their Condolence to his Grace on occaſion of the deep affliction with which it has pleaſed the the Almighty to viſit him and his family.

A Committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious Letter.

Upon a motion, a Committee named to reviſe the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſion of laſt General Aſſembly, and to report on Monday.

A Committee named for reviſing the Commiſſions to the Members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring abſents from the diets thereof, naming Miniſters to Preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner, and receiving Liſts of Probationers in the ſeveral Preſbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for Overtures named.

A Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals, named.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 18. 1798. *Seſſ.* 2.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

A Diet ſpent in Prayer

Act VII. of the Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of the Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to Preach before his Grace the Commiſſioner.

The Committee for reviſing Commiſſions appointed to meet.

The Committee for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 19. 1798. *Seſſ.* 3.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

See Printed Acts, No. III.

The draught of the Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly being brought in and approved, the Aſſembly authorized the Moderator to requeſt of his Grace the Commiſſioner to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures was given in and read.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Burgh of Wick, That the Election being on the 5th day of April, and the reſolution to Elect on the 29th day of March, there are not ten free days intervening. The Aſſembly approved of the Report of the Committee, and ſuſtained the objection.

The roll of cauſes tranſmitted by the Committee for Bills was called for, produced, and read.

Agreed to take up the cauſes reſpecting the Settlement of Penpont on Monday, and the cauſe of Brechin on Tueſday.

A Committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

A Committee named to audite the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other public accounts, conſider the ſtate of the Church's public money, and prepare Overtures about the ſame.

The Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the ſeveral Members any inſtructions given to them by the reſpective Synods or Preſbyteries, claſs the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Aſſembly; and to receive and conſider any accounts that ſhall be given them of the ſtate of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerng the growth of Popery and Superſtition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and ſuppreſſing thereof.

The Committee for Bills was appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 21. 1798. *Seſſ.* 4.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

The Lord High Commiſſioner this day appeared in the Houſe, and made a moſt gracious Speech to the Aſſembly. And the Moderator, at the Aſſembly's deſire, gave the Thanks of the Houſe to his Grace, and expreſſed the high ſatisfaction they felt at ſeeing his Grace in his own place among them.

The Report of the Committee appointed to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the Commiſſion of laſt Aſſembly was called for, given in, and read, and unanimouſly approved of: And the Thanks of the Aſſembly being given from the Chair to the Moderator of laſt Aſſembly, in terms of the ſaid Report, the Commiſſion-book was ordered to be atteſted: And the Aſſembly ordered the Addreſs, and the Admonition and Warning, publiſhed by the Commiſſion, to be inſerted into the records of the General Aſſembly.

The General Aſſembly, in purſuance of their approbation of the proceedings of the Commiſſion of the laſt General Aſſembly of this Church, and taking into their more particular conſideration the ſaid proceedings, and eſpecially the great propriety and ſeaſonableneſs of the Addreſs humbly preſented to his Majeſty by the ſaid Commiſſion, did, upon a motion made, unanimouſly agree, That this Aſſembly ſhall alſo preſent a dutiful and loyal Addreſs to his Majeſty on the preſent ſituation of Public Affairs; and appointed a Committee to prepare a draught thereof.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

Report of the Committee for Bills, given in, and read.

Synod Books called for.

An appeal by the Preſbytery of Penpont, from a ſentence of the Synod of Dumfries, dated 18th October laſt, finding, that the Preſbytery of Penpont had acted irregularly in their proceedings with reſpect to the ſettlement of Penpont, and appointing them to be admoniſhed to act more regularly in future,

heard.

heard. The Aſſembly found, That the Preſbytery of Penpont acted regularly and properly in complying with the advice of laſt Aſſembly, to proceed with the ſettlement of Mr Niviſon in the Church and Pariſh of Penpont; and therefore, unanimouſly reverſed the judgment of the Synod of Dumfries, inflicting a cenſure on the Preſbytery of Penpont; and, without a vote, ordained the ſaid Synod to enter into their minutes, at their next meeting, this deciſion of the General Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly agreed to meet to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, in a Committee of the whole Houſe, to take into conſideration the other branch of the cauſe reſpecting the Pariſh of Penpont.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Tueſday, May 22. 1798. *Seſſ.* 5.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

See Printed Acts, No. IV. The draught of an Addreſs to his Majeſty on the preſent ſituation of Public Affairs, was brought in, and approved; which Addreſs, along with the Anſwer to his Majeſty's Letter, his Grace the Lord High Commiſſioner was pleaſed, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, to undertake to tranſmit to his Majeſty.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures called for.

Agreed to conſider the Overture on Chapels of Eaſe to-morrow.

The Report of the Committee for Bills called for.

Upon Report of the Committee of the whole Houſe on the other branch of the cauſe of Penpont, The Aſſembly ſuſtained the call given to Mr John Niviſon, preſentee to the Pariſh of Penpont: Ordained the Preſbytery of Penpont, at their meeting on the 11th of June next, to proceed to take Mr Niviſon upon Trials, and to appoint the Trials to be held at ſuch times as that a day may be fixed for his ordination and admiſſion as miniſter of Penpont, before the laſt day of July next; and, in the event of any appeal or complaint taken againſt the judgment of the Preſbytery, or any reference made in any ſtep in the proceedings in this cauſe, the Aſſembly empowered their Commiſſion to judge of ſaid appeals, complaints or references, and to give ſuch orders as they ſhall ſee neceſſary for carrying the ſettlement of the preſentee into effect, according to the rules of the Church. Againſt which judgment ſeveral Members diſſented.

A reference by the Synod of Angus and Mearns, reſpecting the qualifications of Mr James Gary, preſentee to the Pariſh of Brechin, heard: Two ſeparate motions were made; and the roll being called, and votes marked, the Aſſembly found, That Mr Gary, the preſentee to the Pariſh of Brechin, has not gone through that courſe of Univerſity education, in philoſophy and theology, which the laws of this Church require,

as

as neceſſary for all the Probationers thereof: That the certificate of Licence and Ordination he has produced from three Proteſtant diſſenting Miniſters in England, cannot, in conſiſtency with the laws of the Church, be held as qualifying him to accept a preſentation to any Pariſh in this Church; and that the deed of the Preſbytery of Chanonry of 5th September 1796, laid before the Preſbytery of Brechin along with the preſentation, was raſh and unwarranted, and did not qualify him to accept of that preſentation; therefore, remitted this cauſe to the Preſbytery of Brechin, directing them to pronounce, at their next meeting, a ſentence, refuſing to ſuſtain the preſentation to Mr Gary, in reſpect that the preſentee is not qualified according to the laws of the Church. Againſt which deciſion ſeveral Members diſſented.

The Committee for Reviſing Commiſſions, and the Committee for Bills, appointed to meet.

The cauſes reſpecting Chapels of Eaſe to be conſidered on Thurſday; and the cauſe of Legertwood on Friday.

Adjournment.

Wedneſday, May 23. 1798. *Seſſ.* 6.

Sederunt.

The Report of the Committee for bills called for.

The Committee on Public Accounts appointed to meet.

The Aſſembly proceeded to conſider the Report on the returns to the Overture on Chapels of Eaſe; which being read, along with the Overture itſelf, a motion was made and ſeconded, That in reſpect a conſiderable majority of Preſbyteries have now tranſmitted to the Aſſembly their opinions in favour of this Overture, the Aſſembly ſhall enact the ſame into a ſtanding law of the Church: And, after long reaſoning, another motion was made and ſeconded, That notwithſtanding a majority of Preſbyteries have returned their opinions to the Aſſembly in favour of this Overture, the General Aſſembly judge it inexpedient to enact the ſame into a law. The Aſſembly agreed to this ſtate of the vote, *enact* or *not*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried, by a great majority, *enact*: Therefore, the Aſſembly enacted ſaid Overture into a ſtanding law of the Church accordingly. See Printed Acts, No. V.

Cauſes fixed for hearing.

Adjournment.

Thurſday May 24. 1798. *Seſſ.* 7.

Sederunt.

A Committee appointed to prepare an Overture from the Overture from the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr.

Public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Aſſembly proceeded to hear the Petition for John Macintoſh, merchant in Glaſgow, and others, truſtees and managers

gers of the New Gaelic Chapel erecting in Duke Street, Glaſgow; and having conſidered the matter contained in the original Petition to the Preſbytery, and the Preſbytery's Report thereupon, they unanimouſly authorized and inſtructed the Preſbytery of Glaſgow to grant the deſire of the petition, by erecting the Chapel of Eaſe in queſtion, according to the regulations adopted by the Aſſembly.

See alſo Printed Acts.

An appeal of Archibald Sharp and others, as a Committee of ſubſcribers for erecting a Chapel of Eaſe in Rothſay, from a ſentence of the Preſbytery of Dunoon, of 27th March laſt, appointing the Petition of the appellants to lie upon their table till next meeting of Preſbytery, heard. The Aſſembly found, That the Preſbytery of Dunoon acted with perfect regularity, in obedience to the interim act of laſt Aſſembly anent Chapels of Eaſe, and diſmiſſed, as incompetent and frivolous, the appeal taken againſt the reſolution of the Preſbytery of the 27th of March laſt: Remitted to the Preſbytery of Dunoon the Petition preſented to the Aſſembly by the appellants: And the Aſſembly being informed, that the next ordinary meeting of the ſaid Preſbytery is in Auguſt next, authorized and appointed them to hold *a pro re nata* meeting on Tueſday the 3d of July next, then to proceed in the buſineſs of the Petition preſented to them on the 27th of March, according to the directions of the ſtanding law reſpecting Chapels of Eaſe, enacted by this Aſſembly. And whereas it is ſtated by the appellants in their Petition to this Aſſembly, that it was their ignorance of the regulations of the interim act anent Chapels of Eaſe which cauſed the delay of their Petition to the Preſbytery, the Aſſembly empowered the Commiſſion at their meeting in Auguſt, or at any ſubſequent meeting, to receive any report which the Preſbytery of Dunoon may tranſmit reſpecting the ſubject of the foreſaid Petition, and to judge therein as they ſee cauſe.

The cauſe of Airdrie delayed till Saturday.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 25. 1798. *Seſſ.* 8.

Sederunt.

The Report of the Committee on the clauſe of the Overture from the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr, reſpecting the courſe of Univerſity education to be obſerved by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, was called for, given in, and read. The Aſſembly unanimouſly agreed to tranſmit the ſame as an Overture to the ſeveral Preſbyteries of this Church, enjoining them to ſend up their opinions thereon to next Aſſembly.

See Printed Acts, No. VI.

The Report of the Truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament for a proviſion to Miniſters Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings ſince laſt General Aſſembly, and a ſtate of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow. And, upon a motion,

motion, the thanks of the Houſe were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention and prudence, in the management of the fund.

A Diſſent and Complaint by Mr Robert Home at Polwarth, Dr Robert Douglas at Galaſhiells, and others, from a Sentence of the Synod of Merſe and Teviotdale, of 24th October laſt, reſpecting the ſettlement of Mr James Young in the pariſh of Legertwood, heard: Two ſeveral motions were made, and the Roll being called, and votes marked, the Aſſembly, by a great majority, found, that Mr James Young was not qualified, according to the laws of this Church, to accept the Preſentation to the Church of Legertwood; and, therefore, reverſed the ſentence of the Synod of Merſe and Teviotdale in October laſt, complained of, recommending to the Preſbytery of Lauder to ſuſtain that Preſentation: Found, That the Preſbytery of Lauder acted with great irregularity in proceeding, as they ſtated at the bar, to admit Mr James Young, upon the 6th of December laſt, Miniſter of Legertwood, notwithſtanding the Diſſent and Complaint of ſeveral Members of the Synod: Annulled all the proceedings of the Preſbytery of Lauder in relation to the ſettlement of the Pariſh of Legertwood ſubſequent to the meeting of the Synod of Merſe and Teviotdale in October laſt; reſcinded the ſettlement of Mr James Young, and declared the Pariſh of Legertwood vacant, as if no ſuch ſettlement had taken place. The Aſſembly appointed an extract of this Sentence to be ſent by the Moderator in a letter to George Kerr, Eſq; of Moriſton, Patron of the Pariſh of Legertwood; and appointed the Preſbytery of Lauder to meet the ſecond Thurſday of June next, in order to appoint ſupplies for the vacant Pariſh of Legertwood.

Cauſes delayed till to-morrow.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 26. 1798. *Seſſ.* 9.

Sederunt.

The Report of the Committee for naming Members of the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, and preparing inſtructions to them, given in, and approved. The Aſſembly added thereto Dr Hugh Blair, one of the Miniſters of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and alſo from the Burgh of Wick, Mr James Horne, whoſe Commiſſion had been rejected on account of informality by the Aſſembly. See Printed Acts, No. VII.

The Report of the Viſitors of the Royal Bounty record given in, and read. The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commiſſion and inſtructions to them. See Printed Acts, No. VIII.

The Synod Book of Merſe and Teviotdale ordered to be atteſted, with this remark, that the Minutes of the Synods, April 1790, October 1790, and April 1791, are not ſigned by the reſpective Moderators.

The

The Report of the Truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament for a proviſion to Miniſters Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertſon, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging him and his cautioners of the ſum of L. 504 : 11 : $1\frac{4}{12}$ Sterling, diſburſed by him, and appointing that he give credit in his next account for the ſum of L. 25 : 18 : $1\frac{8}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Murray, agent for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging him of the ſum of L. 118 : 13 : 2 Sterling, diſburſed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the ſum of L. 24 : 18 : 2 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickſon, Printer for the Church, and ordering payment thereof.

Act approving of the account of ſtationary articles furniſhed to the clerks by Mr Elphinſton Balfour, and ordering payment thereof.

Upon a motion made, the Aſſembly, in addition to the L. 30 allowed by laſt Aſſembly, to aid the expence of the appeal relating to the Schoolmaſter of Bothwell, authorized the Procurator to advance L. 50 more for that purpoſe. And at the ſame time, the Aſſembly recommended to thoſe Preſbyteries of the Church who have not yet ſubſcribed, to give their aid, along with their brethren, to a cauſe ſo generally intereſting to the Church, and to the country;—and to thoſe Preſbyteries who have already ſubſcribed, but not remitted the ſame, to collect the amount of their ſubſcriptions, and remit the money to Mr William Murray, agent for the Church.

The Aſſembly having conſidered a Petition to the Preſbytery of Hamilton, for the heritors, feuars, and inhabitants, compoſing the Congregation of the Chapel of Airdrie, with the procedure of the Preſbytery of Hamilton thereupon, unanimouſly granted the prayer of the Petition of the Congregation; and authorized the Preſbytery of Hamilton to ordain a Miniſter for the ſaid Chapel at Airdrie. And in reſpect that the ordination of a Miniſter alters the ſtate of the ſaid Chapel, the Aſſembly, at the requeſt of the Petitioners, and with the conſent and approbation of the Preſbytery of Hamilton, unanimouſly agreed to eſtabliſh regulations for the ſaid Chapel of Eaſe at Airdrie.

The Aſſembly approved of the general ſpirit of the Overture from the Synod of Fife, relative to the diſtilling of ſpirits on the Lord's Day; and underſtanding that the Procurator, in compliance with the inſtructions given to him by Aſſembly 1795, to watch the introduction into Parliament of any Bill reſpecting the due obſervation of the Lord's Day, and correſpond with the introducer thereof, had actually begun a courſe of correſpondence with Mr Wilberforce, M. P. upon that ſubject.

ject, they approved of what the Procurator had done; and following out the ſpirit of the ſaid inſtructions, and deſirous to teſtify their ſolicitude about the important ſubject of the Overture from the Synod of Fife, appointed a ſtanding Committee, conſiſting of Miniſters and Elders of this Church, to co-operate with the Procurator in this important buſineſs. Dr Blair to be Convener.

A Petition for the Kirk Seſſion of Orwell, and alſo a Petition for Mr Spence and Mr Thomſon, as Complainers, againſt a judgment of the Synod of Fife, of 10th April, pronounced in the cauſe againſt Mr Andrew Stein, at Hattonburn, read. Parties being firſt heard on the queſtion, whether the Preſbytery of Dunfermline and Synod of Fife acted right in pronouncing a judgment, finding, that the Kirk Seſſion of Orwell ought not to have proceeded in the face of the Appeals taken on the 13th and 20th of March; the Aſſembly unanimouſly reverſed the ſentences of the Preſbytery of Dunfermline and Synod of Fife, in ſo far as they find, that the Seſſion of Orwell ought not to have proceeded in the face of the ſaid Appeals.

The Aſſembly agreed to reſolve themſelves into a Committee of the whole Houſe, to proceed immediately to the other points in this cauſe; and alſo to conſider the cauſe of Dryſdale; and upon a motion made, unanimouſly agreed to permit the Moderator to retire during the diſcuſſion of the Committee.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 28. 1798. *Seſſ. ult. Sederunt.*

The Report of the Committee of the whole Houſe on the cauſe, the Kirk Seſſion of Orwell againſt Andrew Stein, was read, and unanimouſly approved: Therefore, agreeably to ſaid Report, the Aſſembly affirmed the ſentence of the Synod of Fife, affirming that of the Preſbytery of Dunfermline, finding the reaſons of appeal frivolous. The Aſſembly approved highly of the attention of the Kirk Seſſion of Orwell, in guarding againſt the profanation of the Lord's day: Found that the Proceedings of the Preſbytery of Dunfermline and Synod of Fife have been informal and irregular, in all the points not already judged upon by the Aſſembly; declared the whole proceedings relative to thoſe points to be null and void; and therefore, remitted the whole cauſe to the Kirk Seſſion of Orwell, with inſtructions to allow Mr Stein a proof of all facts and circumſtances tending to his exculpation; to conſider thereafter the amount of the whole proof already taken, together with any farther proof that may be led, and to pronounce judgment in the cauſe according to the rules of the Church; and authorize their Commiſſion in Auguſt, or any ſubſequent meeting of the Commiſſion, to judge in any reference, complaint, or appeal, that may be brought before them in this cauſe.

The Report of the Committee of the whole Houſe on the cauſe, the Preſbytery of Lochmaben againſt Mr Thomas Henderſon, Miniſter at Dryſdale, was read, and unanimouſly approved: Therefore, agreeably to ſaid Report, the Aſſembly affirmed the ſentence of the Preſbytery of Lochmaben, ſuſtaining the relevancy of the libel againſt Mr Henderſon, and inſtructed the Preſbytery to proceed to take probation of the ſaid libel, according to the rules of the Church, with the omiſſion of what is ſtated in the firſt article in the ſecond head of the libel, reſpecting an inſtance of intoxication ſaid to have happened about ten years ago, which the Aſſembly found irrelevant.

The Aſſembly having been informed by the Moderator, that he had received a letter from Sir John Sinclair of Ulbſter, Baronet, informing him that the Statiſtical Account of Scotland is now about to be completed, and expreſſing a wiſh that a Copy of the whole Book could be purchaſed for every Pariſh within the Kingdom: The General Aſſembly being ſenſible of the importance and utility of this Work, and being of opinion that the object ſuggeſted to the Moderator is very deſirable, recommended it to the Members of Aſſembly, and to the Miniſters of this Church, to conſult their different Pariſhes with regard to the moſt prudent and effectual means of attaining it.

Reaſons of Diſſent from the judgment of the Aſſembly of Tueſday laſt, ſuſtaining the call to Mr Niviſon to be Miniſter of Penpont, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Reaſons of Diſſent from the judgment of the Aſſembly of Tueſday laſt, in the cauſe of Mr Gairie, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Reaſons of Diſſent from the judgment of the Aſſembly of Friday laſt, in the cauſe of Legertwood, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

A Petition for Alexander Fraſer, merchant in Inverneſs, with proceedings of the Preſbytery of Inverneſs thereupon, reſpecting the Erection of a Chapel of Eaſe in the Town of Inverneſs, was read. The Aſſembly having conſidered the caſe, and finding that there is the greateſt harmony among all parties concerned, unanimouſly agreed to grant the deſire of the Petition of Alexander Fraſer and others, Truſtees and Managers of the ſaid Chapel of Eaſe, to be erected in the Town of Inverneſs, and eſtabliſhed regulations for the ſame.

Upon Report of the Committee for claſſing Returns to Overtures, the Aſſembly unanimouſly agreed to retranſmit the former Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers; alſo the Overture reſpecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall; and particularly enjoined ſuch Preſbyteries as have ſent no returns, to ſend up their opinions to next Aſſembly; and that Preſbyteries ſhall appoint a day for the conſideration of theſe two Overtures, at their firſt Meeting after receiving the Printed Acts of Aſſembly; and that they ſhall alſo take into

See Printed Acts, No. IX. X.

into their conſideration on the ſame day, the Overture reſpecting the courſe of Univerſity education to be obſerved by Students, previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, tranſmitted by this Aſſembly.

The Report of the Committee on Orkney grievances, given in and read, and the Committee renewed, with the former powers.

The Committee on the Petition of the Miniſters of Tongue, Edrachilles and Duirneſs, reported, That the family of Reay had agreed to pay 5 *per cent.* inſtead of the 4½, which they have been in uſe to pay for the fund collected under the authority of the Church, for augmenting the Stipend of theſe Pariſhes.

Liſt of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

Proteſtation admitted at the inſtance of Robert Deans againſt Mr John Macleod, Miniſter of Lerwick, in the Preſbytery of Zetland.

Proteſtation alſo admitted againſt the ſaid Mr John Macleod, at the inſtance of Mr John Menzies, Miniſter of Breſſay, in name of the ſaid Preſbytery of Zetland.

A Committee named to reviſe the Minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings at this, and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the Acts of the Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding Rules, in order to their being Printed.

The Minutes of this day's Sederunt were read; the Minutes of former Sederunts being read at the diets ſubſequent thereto.

The Moderator's ſpeech to the Aſſembly, and to his Grace the Commiſſioner.

The Lord High Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.

Act appointing next diet of Aſſembly. See Printed Acts, No. XI.

The Aſſembly concluded with Prayer, Singing of Pſalms, and pronouncing the Bleſſing.